

From: News, HHS (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2001 7:26 PM
To: List HHS-L
Subject: Online Guide to FEHBP Plans for HHS

MEMORANDUM TO HHS EMPLOYEES

Subject: **On-Line Guide to Health Insurance Plans for HHS Employees. (Instructions below)**

I am pleased to announce that HHS employees will have access to an on-line Guide to Health Insurance Plans for Federal Employees beginning November 12, the first day of Health Benefit Open Season. The Guide will be available throughout Open Season and throughout the year until the beginning of the 2002 Open Season. The on-line Guide was developed by Consumer Checkbook, a non-profit organization that has published an annual paperback version of its Guide for over 20 years.

This on-line Guide is an innovative way to obtain reliable, useful information about the many health plans available under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHB), and make fast, easy, personalized plan comparisons. You will be able to compare plan costs, review quality ratings, consider plan features and gauge plan flexibility on issues like choice of doctors and other factors. The Guide compares and ranks plans based on total costs including account premiums and estimated out-of-pocket costs (e.g., deductibles, copayments, and prescription drugs); and on the yearly maximum that an enrollee could possibly have to pay out-of-pocket. The site has been praised for its ease of use.

Instructions for using the on-line Guide are provided below. All HHS employees who are currently or are planning to participate in the FEHB are eligible to use this on-line Guide, and may access it from either office or home. Please note that most employees on temporary appointments and members of the Commissioned Corps do not participate in the FEHB.

Our goal is to help you obtain the best possible coverage at the most reasonable cost. I believe that this on-line Guide will help us meet that goal.

/s/
Ed Sontag
Assistant Secretary for
Administration and Management

Instructions for getting to the Guide to Health Insurance Plans for Federal Employees: To get to the site, go to the Internet site, <http://www.GuideToHealthPlans.org> . In the left hand column, select: "Login to Health Plans". Your user ID is your name EXACTLY as it appears on your bi-weekly pay stub; please enter it as Last Name,(space)First Name(space)Middle Initial (no period).

Your password is simply your five digit home zip code. If there is no zip code on your pay stub, enter 00000 as a password. For example, John C. Servant in zip code 20201 would enter the following:

User ID: Servant, John C
Password: 20201